

*In the Claims*

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:  
 receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein  
     said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame,  
     said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and  
     said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;  
 relocating existing network management information of said second frame from a set of  
     byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations of said second  
     frame;  
 relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first  
     frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame; **[[and]]**  
 cross-connecting said time slots;  
**selecting at least one of said time slots;**  
**receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;**  
**sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;**  
**randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and**  
**outputting said outgoing time slots.**

57.-58. (Cancelled)

60. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 56, further comprising:  
 extracting said network management information; and  
 routing said network management information.

61. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 60, wherein said cross-connecting  
 comprises~~[[:]]~~ **said selecting said at least one of said time slots.**  
~~**selecting at least one of said time slots.**~~

62. **(Previously Presented)** An apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame, said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and

said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;

means for relocating existing network management information of said second frame

from a set of byte locations of said second frame to another set of byte locations of said second frame;

means for relocating network management information from a first set of byte locations

of said first frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame; **[[and]]**

means for cross-connecting said time slots;

**means for selecting at least one of said time slots;**

**means for receiving a plurality of incoming time slots;**

**means for sequentially writing said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;**

**means for randomly reading a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and**

**means for outputting said outgoing time slots.**

63-65. **(Cancelled)**

66. **(Previously Presented)** The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

means for extracting said network management information; and

means for routing said network management information.

67. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 66, wherein said means for cross-connecting comprises**[[:]] said means for selecting.**

~~**means for selecting at least one of said time slots.**~~

68. **(Currently Amended)** A computer program product comprising:

a first set of instructions, executable on a computer system, configured to receive a plurality of time slots, wherein

said time slots comprise a first frame and a second frame,  
 said second frame is received subsequently to said first frame, and  
 said first frame and said second frame are time-division multiplexed frames;  
 a second set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to relocate  
 network management information from a first set of byte locations of said first  
 frame to said set of byte locations of said second frame;  
 a third set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to cross-  
 connect said time slots[,];  
a fourth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select  
 at least one of said time slots;  
a fifth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to receive  
 a plurality of incoming time slots;  
a sixth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to  
 sequentially write said incoming time slots into a plurality of input buffers;  
a seventh set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to  
 randomly read a plurality of outgoing time slots from said input buffers; and  
an eighth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to  
 output said outgoing time slots; and  
 computer readable storage media, wherein said computer program product is encoded in  
 said computer readable storage media.

69.-71 (Cancelled)

72. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, further  
 comprising:

a ~~fourth~~ ninth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to  
 extract said network management information; and  
 a ~~fifth~~ tenth set of instructions, executable on said computer system, configured to select  
 at least one of said time slots.